

TWENTY-SIXTH

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

TODMORDEN

Rural District Council,

BY

J. LAWSON, B.A., M.B.,

UNIV. DUB.

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Presented 9th March, 1904.

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# Todmorden Rural District Council.



HEBDEN BRIDGE, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1903.

I estimate your population, to the middle of the year, to be 5,700; an increase of 100 over 1902.

The births registered have been 115, viz., 53 males and 62 females, three of which were illegitimate; equal to an annual birth-rate of 20·1 per 1,000. The number of births registered and rate for the year 1902 were respectively 112 and 20·0 per 1,000; and the average birth-rate for the preceding ten years (1893 to 1902) was 22·5 per 1,000.

The deaths recorded have been 99, viz., 44 males and 55 females, two of which are uncertified; yielding an annual death-rate of 17·3 per 1,000. In addition, I have to note the deaths of four others, viz., three males and one female, residents of your district, who died away from home, in public institutions. These four added make our total deaths 103, with a nett death-rate of 18 per 1,000. The nett deaths and nett death-rate for the previous year were respectively 88 and 15·7 per 1,000; and the average deaths and death-rate for the preceding ten years, respectively, 74 and 14·9 per 1,000.

Of the 103 deaths, 20 were under one year of age, making an infant mortality of 173·9 per 1,000, which is extremely high. The proportion of deaths among this class, for the year 1902, to every 1,000 births registered was equal to 133·9 per 1,000. The old age deaths, or deaths of persons 65 years of age, were 30,

compared with 17 the previous year. Four cases of sudden or violent death were investigated by the Coroner. Of the 103 deaths from specified causes, 11 were ascribed to the principal zymotic or infectious diseases, equal to a zymotic death-rate of 1·9 per 1,000, against 7 for the preceding year, and a zymotic death rate of 1·2 per 1,000. The deaths from zymotic or preventable diseases are as follows: Smallpox 1, Scarlet Fever 5, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 2, Membranous Croup 1, and Diarrhœa 1. The other causes of death, excluding infectious diseases, are above the average of previous years. They include 18 from acute Lung Diseases, 4 from Phthisis, 6 from Cancer, and 10 from Heart Diseases.

The Vital Statistics for 1903 comprise a birth-rate of 20·1 per 1,000, higher than last year; an infant mortality of 173·9 per 1,000, highest in ten years; a zymotic death-rate of 1·9 per 1,000, also one of the highest recorded; and a high general death-rate.

The infectious diseases reported to me under the "Notification Act" have been 120, viz., Smallpox 20, Scarlet Fever 90, Diphtheria 6, Membranous Croup 1, Erysipelas 2, and Puerperal Fever 1.

All the Smallpox patients were sent to Sourhall Hospital, one dying there, who had never been vaccinated. Twenty-three cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Fielden Hospital.

*Smallpox* broke out in "Dawson City" on the 21st March, under circumstances which I have explained to you in a special report dated 6th April, 1903. Twenty cases occurred from the 21st March to 18th August, when the last patient was removed from "Dawson City." This disease extended to Charlestown and Heptonstall, and after five months was suppressed with difficulty. Many of the parties affected went about the public thoroughfares with Smallpox eruption full out on them, apparently regardless of consequences. It was largely spread in the Rural District by this exposure of infected persons. Several doing so ought to



have been prosecuted, as they were well aware what they ailed. Vaccination and re-vaccination were promptly carried out, and the Sanitary Inspector, in all cases, superintended the thorough disinfection of houses, premises, &c. I received every assistance from Mr. Tempest, contractor to the Halifax Waterworks, in dealing with his workmen, in regard to the precautionary measures adopted. All contacts who submitted to vaccination, after the occurrence of a fresh case in any hut, were permitted to go on with their work at Walshaw-dean; and any persons refusing vaccination and who had been exposed to the infection, lost their employment if they did not comply. The women and children in the various huts also willingly accepted these conditions. The plan acted well, and was followed by the best results.

*Scarlet Fever*, as you are aware, has been very prevalent during the year throughout the whole district. No schools were closed in consequence, as the Board Authorities are very careful to exclude any children from attendance who belong to infected families. Adults have been attacked as well as young children. Five deaths are attributed to this disorder. I am afraid, in several instances, mild cases have passed without being medically treated, and were unrecognised. This, has been, to a great extent, an important factor in the wide spread of Scarlatina over the Rural District. The increasing accommodation at the Fielden Hospital for the isolation of this disease will materially assist in the control and gradual decline of these cases.

*Diphtheria and Membranous Croup* caused three deaths, without any direct condition pointing to the origin.

*Influenza* has been prevalent, and was the primary cause of death in two aged people.

*Typhoid Fever*, I am glad to say, has not existed; no case has been reported for the year. This is a matter for congratulation, and in my experience, has rarely, if ever, occurred before in your district since the Public Health Act first came into force.

*Whooping Cough* has prevailed widely amongst young children; one death has been reported.

Building for the year has been very quiet. Six newly-built houses have become occupied in 1903, compared with 5 in 1902, 8 in 1901, 14 in 1900, 9 in 1899, 18 in 1898, and 23 in 1897.

Factories and Workshops in your district are fairly satisfactorily provided with closet accommodation for both sexes. The workshops, which are five in number, include two bakehouses. These are clean, in fair sanitary condition, and comply with the requirements of the Act.

I attach to this report the usual tables required by the Local Government Board and County Council, also the Inspector's account of Sanitary work completed during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B., &c.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

The Todmorden Rural District Council.

TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics for Whole District.

Year.	Popula- tion es- timated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institu- tions.	Deaths of Non- resid'nts register- ed in District	Deaths of Resi- dents- register- ed beyond District	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1893	4,745	112	23.6	13	116.0	62	13.0					
1894	4,800	95	19.7	11	115.7	69	14.3					
1895	4,800	116	24.1	13	112.0	76	15.8					
1896	4,850	113	23.2	12	106.1	73	15.0					
1897	4,900	141	28.7	15	106.3	84	17.1					
1898	5,000	107	21.4	15	140.1	85	17.0					
1899	5,100	134	26.2	15	111.9	61	11.9					
1900	5,200	107	20.5	14	130.8	95	18.2					
1901	5,094	93	18.2	14	150.5	64	12.5			7	71	13.9
1902	5,600	112	20.0	15	133.9	80	14.2			8	88	15.7
Averages for years 1893-'02	5,008	113	22.5	13		74						
1903	5,700	115	20.1	20	173.9	99	17.3			4	103	18.0

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—15,288 Acres.

Total population at all ages..... 5,094 }  
Number of inhabited houses ..... 1,269 } At Census of 1901.  
Average number of persons per house.....about 4 }

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Todmorden Union Workhouse, Fielden Hospital, Sourhall Hospital, and Bradford Infirmary.



TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Undr 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds	
Smallpox.....	20	1	1	0	5	13	0	20
Cholera .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	6	1	4	1	0	0	0	0
Membranous Croup.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas .....	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	90	1	26	48	11	4	0	23
Typhus Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Relapsing Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Plague .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total .....	120	3	32	49	17	19	0	43

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages						
	All Ages	Un-der 1	1 and un-der 5	5 and undr 15	15 & undr 25	25 & undr 65	65 & up-wrds
Smallpox.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Scarlet Fever.....	5	0	2	3	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Croup .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Enteritis .....	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Phthisis .....	4	0	1	0	0	1	2
Other Tubercular Diseases .....	5	2	3	0	0	0	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	6	0	0	0	0	4	2
Bronchitis .....	7	1	0	1	0	0	5
Pneumonia.....	9	3	2	0	0	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Veneral Diseases .....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Heart Diseases .....	10	0	0	0	0	7	3
Suicides .....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
All other Causes .....	42	10	4	2	2	8	16
All Causes .....	103	20	14	8	2	29	30



## TABLE C, 1903.

### TODMORDEN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B.

Salary £40.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—Mr. EMMETT SMITH. Salary £45.

What other positions does the Sanitary Inspector fill?—  
None.

#### WATER SUPPLY—

Quality? — Generally good. Action on Lead? — None reported.

Any extensions or change during 1903?—No.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Water scarce in dry summers, mainly private supplies.

#### SEWERAGE—

Is the district systematically sewered?—No. Is rainfall excluded?—No.

Extensions or Improvements during 1903?—None.

Any inadequacy, and where?—None.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

System adopted?—Precipitation for Heptonstall. Any extensions in 1903?—No.

#### SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, ash-places, &c., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—  
Sanitary Staff in Parish of Heptonstall.

Number of each type of receptacle?—Pail or tub closets, 403. W.C., 64. Other, 200.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1903 (or parts)?—No.

And diseases added to Notification schedule, e.g., Measles, Chicken-pox, &c.?—No.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis?—No.

#### BYE-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1903?—(a) Under the Public Health Act, 1875?—No. (b) Under the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890?—No.

#### REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.

Common Lodging Houses?—None.

Canal Boats?—82. Fair condition.

Slaughter Houses?—3.

Cowsheds?—70.

Offensive Trades?—1 (Tripe Boiling).

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

Name and Situation of Hospital for Smallpox cases?—  
Sourhall Hospital.

Name and Situation for general infectious diseases?—  
Fielden Hospital.

Does the Sanitary Authority provide antitoxin (gratis) for  
diphtheria cases?—No.

#### SCHOOLS—4.

No. closed during 1903 on account of sickness?—None.

Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly  
with school life during 1903?—No.

#### FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

No. of Workshops in the district, as per Register?—5. No.  
of inspections made during 1903?—5. Legal proceed-  
ings?—None.

No. of Bakehouses included in above?—2. No. of Under-  
ground Bakehouses in district?—None.

No. of Domestic Workshops in above?—None. No. of  
Domestic Factories in the district?—None.

No. of Lists of Outworkers received?—None. Any action  
as to unwholesome or infected Outworkers' premises?—  
No.

#### DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1903?—6. General charac-  
ter?—Cottages.

Any houses unfit for habitation?—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes  
Acts?—No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made?—No.  
Are records kept?—No.

#### NUISANCES—

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1902?—20.  
At close of 1903?—2. Reported during 1903?—52.  
Abated during 1903?—70.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of  
Nuisances during 1903?—11.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings?—4.

No. of Sink Wastes disconnected during 1903?—7.

No. of Sink Wastes trapped during 1903?—7.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1903? — 9.  
Kinds?—6 W.C.'s and 3 Pails.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1903?—3. Kinds?—  
Pails.

#### METEOROLOGY—

Mean Temperature for year 1903?—46·34.

Rainfall?—52·98.

#### WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS?

Seizures of Unsound Food?—None. Prosecutions?—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts?—None.  
Prosecutions?—None.

Has there been any poisoning during 1903 attributable to  
arsenical beer?—No.

Smoke observations taken?—28. Legal Notices?—4.  
Summonses?—2.

Burial Grounds—No. in district?—5. Any need for extension?—No.

Mortuaries—No. in district (a) for accidents?—None. (b)  
Other?—None.

#### BIRTHS—

Males 52, Females 62; total 115.

Number illegitimate, included in the above?—3.

Number of Still Births (not included)?—None.

#### DEATHS—

(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the  
district, without any correction?—99.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated?—  
Males 46, Females 57; Total 103.

Number uncertified, included in the above?—2.

# INSPECTOR'S REPORT of the Sanitary Work, &c.

Completed in the year ending 31st December, 1903.

- 21 Complaints received during the year.
- 970 Inspections made.
- 25 Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses & Premises.
- 105 Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases.
- 7 House Drains Trapped and Disconnected.
- 7 New House Drains Laid.
- 13 House Drains Repaired and Cleansed.
- 3200 Privies or Water Closets Cleansed, &c.
- 7 New Provided.
- 25 Covered, &c.
- 1 Ash Pit (new) Provided.
- 330 Loads of Animal and Other Refuse Removed.
- 70 Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected.
- 25 Nuisances Abated.

(Signed)

**EMMETT SMITH,**

Nuisance Inspector.